

INFORMATION REPORT
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COUNTRY Albania
SUBJECT Military Information.

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1. The Albanian army has been expanded from two infantry divisions to four. Informant believes that at the present time the forces under arms (including militia and police) amount to between 80,000 and 90,000 men.¹
2. Old weapons used by the army are being steadily replaced by Soviet equipment. Uniforms and insignia are now the same as in the Soviet army. Militia and police (sic - presumably Sigurimi, Pursuit Brigades and Regular Police or Policija) units receive treatment and food which are superior to those of the army.
3. Soviet officers and enlisted men are not seen in public, but Informant believes that about 1000 of them are in Albania as instructors and technicians.
4. Since 1949, all officers have been sent to the Moscow military school (sic). Political fidelity is considered of more importance in an officer than professional competence. Those who are considered completely trustworthy are, in general, sent to the Frunze Military Academy, Moscow. Aspirants (officer candidates) are sent to the Enver Hoxha Military Academy, Tirana.
5. An Albanian division is composed as follows:
 - a. Division headquarters.
 - b. Two or three infantry regiments.
 - c. One artillery regiment.
 - d. One anti-aircraft battalion.
 - e. One anti-tank battalion.
 - f. One fortifications company (sic - engineers?).
 - g. One communications company.
 - h. One transport battalion.

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6. Other units, such as the 11th Communications Regiment, are available to the High Command.
7. The 1st Infantry Division is garrisoned in Tirana.

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1. Comment: [REDACTED] states that the Albanian Army consists of three infantry divisions and two independent brigades with a total strength of 40,000 to 45,000 men. Also mentioned is the Security Corps (Border Guard, Pursuit Brigades, Regular Police) with a force of 10,000 men. In addition [REDACTED] reported on an Albanian State Security Division and an Auxiliary Division both of which, if they are not identical with the Security Corps mentioned above, augment the armed forces by another 17,000 men. If the Navy with a strength of 800 men [REDACTED] and the Coastal Defense with 4,500 men are included in the grand total of men under arms in Albania, the sum approaches 90,000 men. The actual formation of a fourth division has not been confirmed although [REDACTED] does mention the possibility of the formation of three additional divisions with a combined strength of about 30,000 men.

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